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ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER ELECTIONS: ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in section II, paragraph 2, of its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, decided that the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme should be headed by the Executive Director of the Programme, who should be elected by the General Assembly, on the nomination of the Secretary-General, for a term of four years.

2. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted decision 47/310 of 8 December 1992, by which it elected, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for a four-year term of office beginning 1 January 1993.

3. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, adopted decision 51/316 of 16 December 1996, by which it extended the term of office of Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for a period of one year, beginning 1 January 1997. The term of office of the current Executive Director thus expires on 31 December 1997.

4. In accordance with the above-mentioned provision of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Secretary-General wishes to nominate Mr. Klaus Töpfer (Germany) to be Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1998.

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